

I claim:

1. A lid adapted for removable attachment to a cup having a rim, which lid comprises:

a generally circular top surface;

an annular side wall contiguous to the periphery of the top surface and extending downward from the top surface, the annular side wall being comprised of

5 an annular coupling surface formed in the annular side wall for removably securing the lid to the cup rim in an attached position;

a first aperture in the annular side wall extending upwards from the lower edge of the annular side wall;

10 a second aperture in the annular side wall extending upwards from the lower edge of the annular side wall and spaced apart from the first aperture;

wherein the lid can be mounted onto the cup rim while leaving the contents of the cup accessible when the cup rim passes through the first and the second apertures.

2. The lid according to claim 1, further comprising at least one dispensing aperture in the generally circular top surface through which the cup contents can be dispensed when the lid is secured to the cup in the attached position.

3. The lid according to claim 1, wherein the first aperture and the second aperture are generally parabolic in shape, the widest portion of the aperture residing along the lower edge of the annular side wall.

4. The lid according to claim 1, in which the first and second apertures do not extend upwards into the annular side wall beyond the highest point at which the side wall contacts the cup rim when the lid is in the attached position.

5. The lid according to claim 1, which lid is made from a disposable or recyclable material.
6. The lid according to claim 5, wherein the disposable or recyclable material is a thermoplastic material.
7. The lid according to claim 1, in which the first aperture is spaced from the second aperture along the annular side wall by a distance of approximately one-tenth of the circumference of the annular side wall.
8. The lid according to claim 2, on which the dispensing aperture is positioned near the periphery of the top surface, and the first and second apertures are located along the annular side wall at positions approximately opposite the dispensing aperture.
9. A lid adapted for removable attachment to a cup having a rim, which lid comprises:
 - a generally circular top surface;
 - an annular side wall contiguous to the periphery of the top surface and extending downward from the top surface, the annular side wall being comprised of
 - an annular coupling surface formed in the annular side wall for removably securing
 - the lid to the cup rim in an attached position;
 - a hook structure formed from the annular side wall configured to releasably hang the
 - lid on the rim along the outer periphery of the cup such that the interior of the
 - cup is accessible.

10. The lid according to claim 9, wherein the hook structure is formed from at least two lines of weakness extending upwards from the lower edge of the annular side wall.
11. The lid according to claim 10, wherein the at least two lines of weakness are oriented parallel to one another.
12. The lid according to claim 11, wherein the at least two lines of weakness are spaced apart by approximately one-eighth of an inch.
13. The lid according to claim 11, further comprising a tab positioned contiguous to the lower edge of the annular side wall and between the at least two lines of weakness, the tab extending beyond the lower edge of the annular side wall.
14. The lid according to claim 10, in which the lines of weakness are score lines.
15. The lid according to claim 10, further comprising tear arrest structures at the uppermost ends of each of the at least two lines of weakness.
16. The lid according to claim 10, wherein the hook structure alternatively assumes a stowed position and a deployed position, wherein the hook structure lies substantially within the plane formed by the annular side wall while in the stowed position, and the hook structure is pressed inwards such that it is positioned within the circumference of the annular side wall while in the deployed position, whereby the lid can be temporarily retained on the cup by hanging the hook structure on the cup rim while the hook structure is in the deployed position, thereby allowing access to the interior of the cup.

17. The lid according to claim 10, further comprising at least one dispensing aperture in the generally circular top surface through which the cup contents can be dispensed when the lid is secured to the cup in the attached position.

18. The lid according to claim 17, wherein the dispensing aperture is positioned near the periphery of the top surface, and the hook structure is located along the annular side wall at a position approximately opposite the dispensing aperture.

19. A lid adapted for removable attachment to a cup having a rim, which lid comprises:

a generally circular top surface having an upper face and a lower face;

an annular side wall contiguous to the periphery of the top surface and extending downward from the top surface, the annular side wall being comprised of

5 an annular coupling surface formed in the side wall for removably securing the lid to a cup having a rim;

a protrusion extending from the lower face of the top surface, which protrusion is operably configured for releasably hanging the lid on the cup rim along the outer periphery of the cup such that the interior of the cup is accessible.

20. The lid according to claim 19, wherein the protrusion comprises:

an extension arm oriented generally normal to the top surface; and

a hook positioned near the end of the extension arm furthest from the top surface.

21. The lid according to claim 20, wherein the hook has a longitudinal cross-section similar in shape to that of a radial cross-section of the cup rim.

22. The lid according to claim 19, wherein the protrusion extends beyond a plane formed by the lower edge of the lid.

23. The lid according to claim 19, wherein the protrusion is attached to the top surface at a position offset from the center of the top surface.

24. A method for using a cup having a removable lid comprising the steps of:

hanging the lid on the rim of the cup such that the majority of the area circumscribed by the rim of the cup is accessible;

accessing contents within the cup; and

5 mounting the lid onto the cup such that the lid substantially covers the area circumscribed by the rim of the cup;

whereby the contents of the cup can be accessed without setting the lid down on another surface.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the step of hanging the lid on the rim of the cup is comprised of the substep of inserting the cup rim into at least two apertures formed in the lid.

26. The method of claim 24, in which the step of hanging the lid on the rim of the cup is comprised of the substeps of deploying a hook structure, and placing securing the hook structure onto the cup rim.

27. The method of claim 26, in which the substep of deploying a hook structure is comprised of the substeps of separating the hook structure from an annular side wall of the lid along at least two lines of weakness formed in the annular side wall; bending the hook structure inwards towards the center of the lid; and engaging the hook structure with the rim of the cup.

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28. The method of claim 24, in which the step of hanging the lid on the rim of the cup is comprised of the substep of attaching to the cup rim a protrusion extending downwards from a generally circular top surface of the lid.